Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

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R 141906Z JUL 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, SG, US, SL

SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING EXCHANGE VISITORS

1.MRS. SENE NEE SIGA COULIBALY OF SENEGAL, AND MRS. DIALLO OF SIERRA LEONE, ATTENDING A NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN (NCNW) SEMINAR AT BETHUNE-COOKMAN COLLEGE, DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA, WERE ACCUSED OF SHOPLIFTING, SEARCHED AND INTERROGATED BY STORE OFFICERS ON JULY 10.

- 2. LADIES WERE CALLED BACK INTO IVY DEPARTMENT STORE BY ACTING MANAGER OF STORE AFTER HAVING MADE PURCHASES AND DEPARTED. THEY WERE INTERROGATED FOR OVER TWO HOURS BY STORE SECURITY PERSONNEL, DESPITE PRESENTATION DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS, PRESENCE OF STATE DEPT. ESCORT WHO TOLD STORE PERSONNEL WOMEN HAD DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS, AND PRESENTATION OF RECEIPTS FOR ALL PURCHASES. WHEN POLICE INTERVENED, AND AFTER CAREFUL POLICE QUESTIONING IN POLICE CAR IN FRONT OF STORE, LADIES WERE RELEASED.
- 3. LADIES ARE CALM. RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF INCIDENT AND TO DATE ARE CALM AND AWAIT FURTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFORMATION. MRS. SENE AND MRS. DIALLO PLAN TO ARRIVE IN

WASHINGTON SUNDAY, JULY 13.

- 4. DAYTONA BEACH POLICE HAVE MAILED POLICE REPORT OF INCIDENT TO DEPARTMENT (AF/W).
- 5. LONGISH PRESS ACCOUNT OF INCIDENT APPEARED IN JULY 11
 ISSUE OF DAYTONA BEACH MORNING JOURNAL, WHICH
 REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED INCIDENT IN OBJECTIVE TERMS. DEPARTMENT EXPECTS HAVE COPY OF ARTICLE JULY 14.
- 6. FOLLOWING VIGOROUS PROTEST BY COLLEGE AND LOCAL BLACK WOMEN'S GROUP MANAGEMENT OF IVY DEPARTMENT STORES HAS AGREED TO PUBLICLY APOLOGIZE ORALLY AND IN WRITING TO TWO LADIES. ORAL APOLOGY WILL BE GIVEN AT BETHUNE-COOKMAN CHAPEL ON JULY 12. DEPT. OFFICIAL EXPRESSED DEPT'S REGRET IN INTERVIEW WITH LOCAL PAPER. INGERSOLL

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Subject: INCIDENT INVOLVING EXCHANGE VISITORS TAGS: OEXC, PFOR, SG, US, SL, (DIALLO), (SIGA, SENE NEE)

To: FREETOWN DAKAR

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